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**Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013**

# Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

## Thematic cluster III: United Nations offices, peacebuilding support offices, integrated offices and commissions

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report contains a revision to the proposed resource requirements for 2013 for the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) included in the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/67/346/Add.3).

The proposal is for the reclassification of the level of the position of Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNIOGBIS from that of Assistant Secretary-General to that of Under-Secretary-General.

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# I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted to propose a revision to the proposed resource requirements for 2013 for the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) (A/67/346/Add.3) in connection with actions taken or expected to be taken by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council on the basis of requests from Member States and/or recommendations of the Secretary-General.

# II. Resource requirements

2. The forthcoming report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council to be presented on 11 December 2012 provides an update on the political and security situation in Guinea-Bissau in the aftermath of the military coup d'état of 12 April 2012. The political and security situation in the country has been steadily deteriorating, despite efforts by national and international stakeholders to resolve the crisis. Stakeholders at the national and international levels remain polarized with regard to the legitimacy of the transitional arrangement brokered by the Economic Community of West African States and the modalities for ensuring the full restoration of constitutional order. In addition, the work of the United Nations in Guinea-Bissau has changed dramatically, from assisting with peacebuilding initiatives and security sector reform to negotiating a political road map to end the current crisis.

3. In this context, it is important that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau have the international recognition, standing and respect, both nationally and internationally, to move the currently stagnated political process forward and, in particular, to address the extreme polarization in positions between and among national and international stakeholders. Therefore, the present level of the position of Special Representative of the Secretary-General, at that of Assistant Secretary-General, would not attract an individual at the rank of either a former Head of State or his or her equivalent, which is now viewed as critical to breaking the political stalemate in Guinea-Bissau, moving the national political process forward and harmonizing the positions of stakeholders.

4. Therefore, there is a requirement for the reclassification of the level of the position of Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNIOGBIS from that of Assistant Secretary-General level to that of Under-Secretary-General.

5. The additional requirement related to the proposed reclassification amounts to $31,700. This requirement would be accommodated within the overall level of budgets for special political missions for the biennium 2012-2013.

6. The current proposal is submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration in the light of the foregoing and given that the matter is in the interest of peace and security.

# III. Action required of the General Assembly

7. The General Assembly is requested to approve the current proposal.